FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Report No. 82-3-36

Issued: 7/29/82

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY, KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST, LOUISIANA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Kisatchie National Forest

STATE: Louisiana

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 1,017,300 acres

DATE: July 21-22, 1982

PERCENT COVERAGE: 50%

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

CREW: Charles Dull, FPM; John Parlier, Evangeline Ranger District; Erich Valery,

Southern Station

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To detect the presence of forest insect and disease activity on the Kisatchie National Forest. Special emphasis was placed on delineating areas of red and fading pine trees suspected to contain populations of the southern pine beetle.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 49 spots of red and fading pine trees suspected to be caused by the southern pine beetle were detected. Table 1. shows the number and size categories of these spots in each of the six districts on the Kisatchie. The attached maps show the locations and the estimated number of red and fading pine trees at each of these spots. Most of the spots observed contained 20 or fewer trees, however, at one location on the Evangeline district a large spot north of the Clairborne range containing an estimated 200 red and fading pine trees was detected. This was by far the largest spot observed during this aerial survey. The following day this area was ground checked by Forest Pest Management Pineville personnel, Southern Station personnel, and silviculturalist from the Evangeline Ranger District. They estimated six acres of pine were currently infested by southern pine beetle, of which two acres were a plantation. Personnel from the Southern Station have been actively involved in aerial surveys and field surveillance activities to detect spots for use in research purposes. Their cooperation with Forest Pest Management and the Kisatchie districts have allowed a good handle to be kept on the southern pine beetle populations in these areas. Additional spots were ground checked by the Southern Station in which a large number of green infested trees were found which could not be observed from the air. This would indicate that populations may be building on the Kisatchie. The attached maps show the locations and estimated number of red and fading pine trees suspected to contain southern pine beetle.

SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

Field surveillance by the National Forest personnel should continue. If southern

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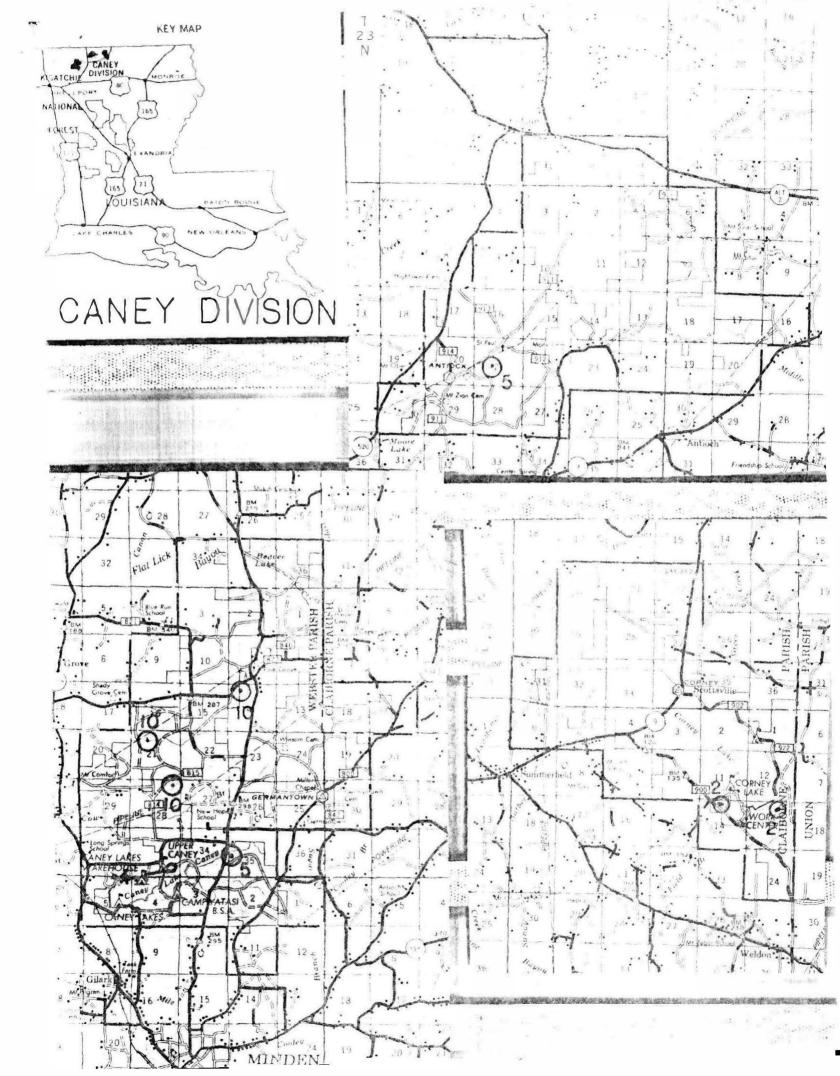
southern pine beetle populations are believed to be building, an additional aerial survey may be warranted in late August or September. In general southern pine beetle activity is at a low level, although enough spots were observed to cause reasonable concern that the potential for buildup does exist.

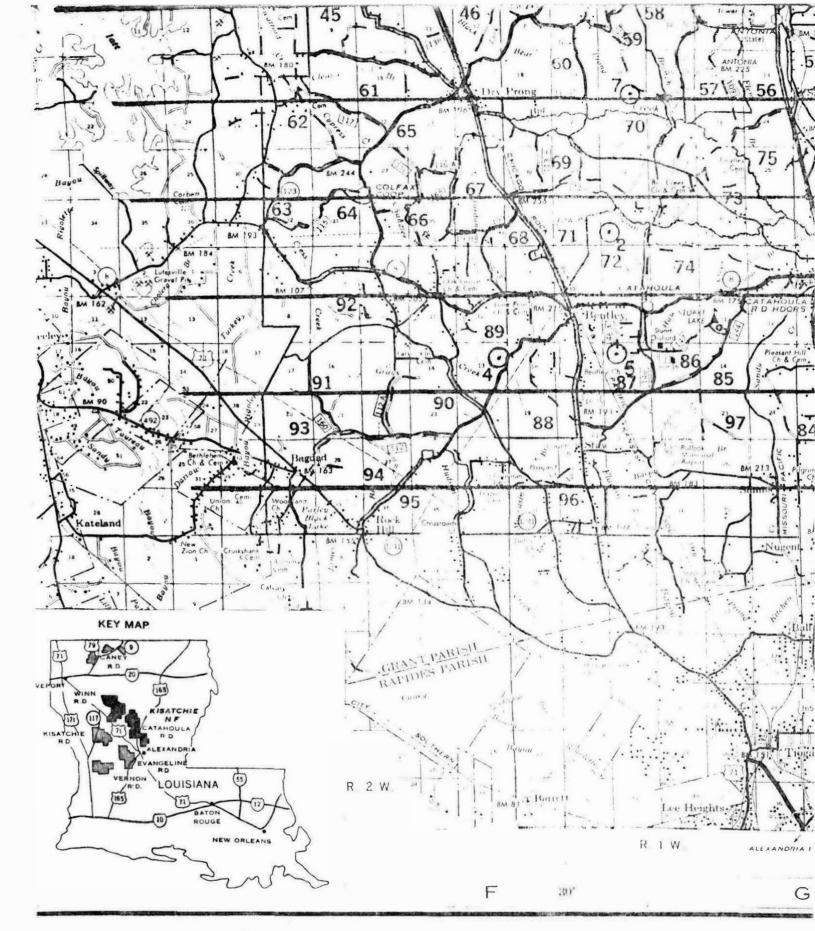
For additional information, contact:

USDA Forest Service FPM 3620 Interstate 85, N.E. Northgate Office Park, Room 2103 or Doraville, GA 30340 Telephone: 404/221-4796 USDA Forest Service FPM 2500 Shreveport Highway Pineville, LA 71360 Telephone: 318/497-7280

Table 1: Summary of Aerial Survey Data, Estimated number of southern pine beetle spots by size category, Kisatchie National Forest, July 21-22, 1982

	Spot Size Categorized by number of red and fading trees				
Ranger District	2 - 25	26 - 50	51 - 100	100+	
Caney	7	o	0	o	
Catahoula	27	1	0	0	
Evangeline	6	o	0	1	
Kisatchie	3	0	0	0	
Vernon	0	0	0	0	
Winn	4	0	0	0	
Total	47	1	0	1	





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